

### **REMARKS**

By way of the foregoing amendments, various ones of the original claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies and Claims 8-20 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by these changes.

In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to define the claimed method in a slightly different manner. That is, rather than defining that the method involves reducing the pressure in the retort during the final phase of the heat-treatment in such a manner that the pressure of the product packed in the package is higher than or equal to the pressure prevailing in the retort outside the package, Claim 1 has been amended to recite, consistent with the description in the last paragraph on page 7 of the application and in the second paragraph on page 8 of the application, reducing the pressure in the retort during the final phase of the heat-treatment in such a manner that the pressure in the packaging material and the pressure within the package is higher than or equal to the pressure prevailing in the retort outside the package.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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